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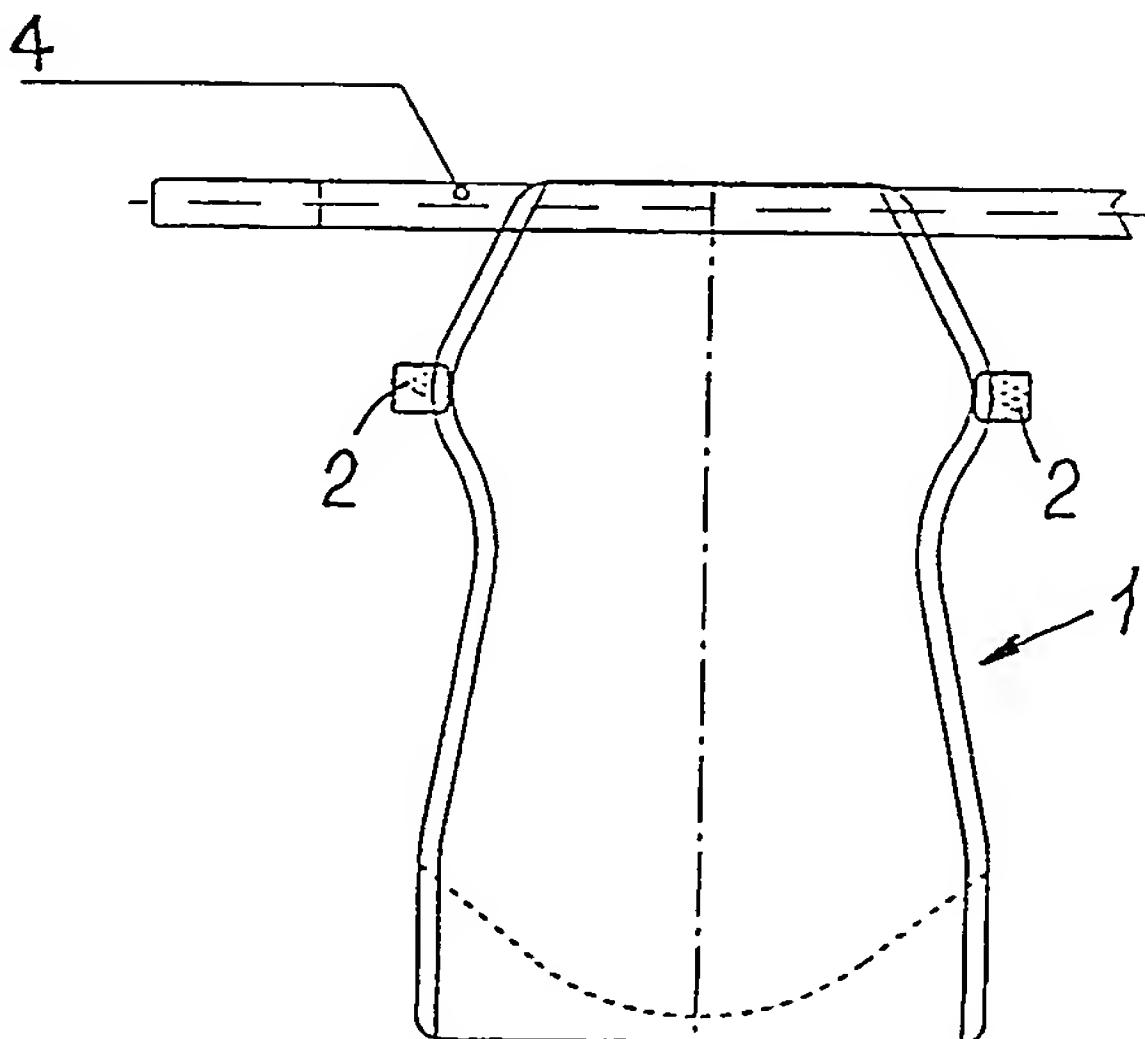
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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW. ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW). Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM). European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR). OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for the following designation US*

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR OPENING A FLEXIBLE POUCH



(57) **Abstract:** A method for opening a flexible pouch (1), and in particular heat-sensitive edges (3) of a mouth of the pouch, provides for the opening of the edges (3) of the mouth to occur by simple heating until the mutual detachment of the edges (3) of the opening with the formation of an adequate (6). A device for opening the pouch (1) comprises heating means so shaped as to heat a heat-sensitive area of the mouth of the pouch until causing its opening. The heating means can comprise at least a nozzle (7) able to emit a jet of warm air that heats the mouth of the pouch (1) or a pair of heated shaped guides (4) between which transits the area of the mouth of the pouch (1) whilst the guides (4) press against the pouch itself or are simply in contact therewith.